



## Library Info Alert May/June 2005

*Library Info Alert* focuses on recent developments in the field of library science and information management in the United States. The Library Info Alert contains summaries of recent articles from leading library-related periodicals and recommended Internet sites. Our goal is to help the librarians to maintain their libraries as centers for information and lifelong learning in the electronic environment of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### 1. Reference That Rocks

**(American Libraries, May 2005, Vol. 36, Iss. 5, pp. 37 - 41)**

Since 1958, the Reference and User Services Association's Reference Sources Committee--composed of both public and academic librarians--has chosen the year's best in reference publishing. Here, Katharine Dean, reference librarian at Ohio State University in Columbus, features the 2005 list of outstanding books from American Library Association's Reference and User Services Association, which include *Atlas of World Art* edited by John Onians, *Encyclopedia of 20th Century Architecture* edited by R. Stephen Sennott, and *Encyclopedia of Clothing and Fashion* edited by Valerie Steele.

### 2. A Brief but Intense Job

**(Information Outlook, May 2005, Vol. 9, Iss. 5, pp. 29 - 36)**

Eva Semertzaki, librarian at the Bank of Greece in Athens, shares her personal experiences of being a volunteer librarian at the Main Press Center library during the Athens Olympic Games. Among other things, she claims that the experience of contributing to the success of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games filled her with the satisfaction that she was there too. Furthermore, the operation of a special library in a place that served reporters in a global event like the Olympic Games proved a good chance for projecting the image and culture of the host country to journalists who shape public opinion worldwide with their writings.

### 3. "That All May Read..."

**(Public Libraries, March/April 2005, Vol. 44, Iss. 2, pp. 69 - 77)**

In 1931, Congress established the Talking Book Program, which is administered by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Library of Congress. Since

then, audio and Braille books, magazines, and other materials have been provided postage-free

to eligible borrowers throughout the US and to eligible American citizens living abroad. Here, several user perspectives on the issue of talking books are presented.

### 4. Computer and Internet Ethics

**(Library Administration & Management, Spring 2005, Vol. 19, Iss. 2, pp. 102 - 107)**

Bonnie A. Osif, Assistant Engineering Librarian at Pennsylvania State University, highlights several computer and Internet ethics. The number of resources on the various aspects of information, computer, and Internet ethics is staggering. These resources remind people of their interconnections and of the possibilities that their activities have some affect on others.

### 5. Lust for Reading

**(American Libraries, May 2005, Vol. 36, Iss. 5, pp. 32 - 37)**

An interview with writer and librarian Nancy Pearl is presented. Pearl talks about her life as a promiscuous reader whose plucky guidance has made readers' advisory more fun than a barrel of action figures.

**6. Advising Readers Online: A Look at Internet-Based Reading Recommendation (Reference & User Services Quarterly, Spring 2005, Vol. 44, Iss. 3, pp. 210 - 216)**

Barry Trott, Adult Services Director at Williamsburg Regional Library in Virginia, believes that libraries will find that developing an online reading suggestion service provides them with an opportunity to quantify readers' advisory services in a new way. He claims further that developing online reading recommendation services provides a personal service that reinforces the concept of the library as a valuable resource for the community of readers.

**7. Libraries and their Service Portfolios**  
(Searcher, June 2005, Vol. 13, Iss. 6, pp. 32 - 38)

The ensuing debate on several discussion lists failed to look at the question from a slightly different angle: "What services should we offer that satisfy our patrons and sustain our success?," and "Does Virtual Reference replace, complement, or compete with other services?" Failure to ask these more fundamental questions indicated that many librarians may not evaluate their entire mix of service offerings clearly before deciding how, where, or "if" new services such as Virtual Reference fit within that mix.

**8. Birds of a Feather?**  
(School Library Journal, May 2005, Vol. 51, Iss. 5, pp. 42 - 45)

"A great example of the fusion of information and technology literacies is the creation of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Literacy by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills ([www.21stcenturyskills.org](http://www.21stcenturyskills.org)), an advocacy organization that brings together leaders from the business and education communities. In creating ICT Literacy, the Partnership has, in essence, taken the American Association of School Librarians' bible, Information Power, and strengthened it by linking it to the National Education Technology Standards, which were created by the International Society for Technology in Education to help students use technology efficiently. The Partnership's strategy parallels our schools' efforts to integrate the disciplines of information and technology instruction into our district's learning objectives."

**9. One-On-One Instruction: From the Reference Desk to Online Chat**  
(Reference & User Services Quarterly, Spring 2005, Vol. 44, Iss. 3, pp. 203 - 210)

Beth S. Woodard, Central Information Services Librarian at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, suggests that reference librarians need to develop mentoring skills to help each other improve these skills in one-on-one instruction such as peer coaching, which is a proven method for improving reference skills. She adheres that the integration of reference services and information skills instruction not only can help librarians become better teachers in the virtual environment, but also can transform how reference librarians behave in the traditional reference environment as well.

**10. Taking Charge of Your Career**  
(Information Outlook, May 2005, Vol. 9, Iss. 5, pp. 17 - 19)

There are no secret recipes for a successful career. Librarians more than ever have an opportunity to chart their own future. It is essential for library school students and information professionals at the beginning of their careers to understand that their professional and career development is in their hands. Here, Kevin Manion, associate director in the Strategic Planning and Information Services Department at Consumer Reports, explains how to take charge of one's career.

**NOTE: Library Info Alert is available to subscribers only. You may contact us through telephone, fax or e-mail to order the requested material. Full text of articles will be faxed to you as soon as possible. Please send your comments and remarks to [ircleipzig@state.gov](mailto:ircleipzig@state.gov)**

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